

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5416

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH

REF: TEHRAN 5346

1. DURING JUNE 18 AUDIENCE, SHAH SAID, IN PASSING, THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 5-6,000 COMMUNISTS IN IRAN. HE WAS GIVIING SOME CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING COMMUNIST PARTY LEGAL. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PLAY POLITICS BY LOCAL GROUND RULES AND WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY.

2. I ASKED WHETHER THE CURRENT CROP OF COMMUNISTS WERE REMNANTS OF THE OLD TUDEH PARTY OR WHETHER THEY WERE NEW RECRUITS. HE SAID THAT THE TUDEH WERE ALL GONE AND THAT THE NEW RECRUITS CAME LARGELY FROM STUDENTS WHO HAD RETURNED FROM EUROPE AND THE US. I SAID I DOUBTED THOSE WHO CAME FROM THE US HAD ANY DEEP ORGANIZATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND WOULD MORE LIKELY BE MARXIST FADDISTS. HE SAID WITH A SMILE THAT MAYBE HALF OF THEM WERE CIA "PENETRATION AGENTS" ANYWAY. I SAID I WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IF I THOUGHT THAT WERE TRUE.

3. THIS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF IRANIAN STUDENTS
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IN THE US. HE THOUGHT WE HAD ABOUT 15,000 IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. I SAID WE THOUGHT THE NUMBER WAS AT LEAST TWICE THAT, AND THAT MANY WERE IN OBSCURE COLLEGES OF QUESTIONABLE ACADEMIC MERIT. I HOPED WE COULD DO A LITTLE MORE TO PROVIDE COUNSELING FOR POTENTIAL STUDENTS BEFORE THEY LEFT FOR THE US AND SAID THAT WE WOULD BE TALKING WITH HIS MINISTERS ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE

ON HANDLING OF THEM. THE SHAH AGREED WITH THIS OBJECTIVE,
"ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT YOU DO NOT VIOLATE THEIR HUMAN
RIGHTS."

4. COMMENT: MY INITIAL REACTION TO MY FIRST OBSERVATIONS
HERE AND IN WASHINGTON IS THAT NEITHER THE US NOR THE
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN ADEQUATE MEASURES TO COPE WITH
THE STUDENT PHENOMENON. IT IS MY ESTIMATE THAT IT WILL BE
WITH US IN LARGE DIMENSIONS FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS AND WE
NEED TO HAVE SOME MORE IMAGINATIVE APPROACHES TO THE SUBJECT.
EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT SOME PROPOSALS.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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